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A. BRONSON ALCOTT.

THE LIFE OF A PHILOSOPHER.

A. BRONSON ALCOTT: HIS LIFE AND PHI-LOSOPHY. By F. B. Sanborn and William T. Harris, In two volumes, with portraits. Pp. 354. Roberts Bros.

Mr. Sanborn in this rambling biography is in would rather mourn that a severe university training had not regulated his undoubted powers the singular position of attempting to portray and led him to more practical application of the what he considers greatness without being able to enumerate tangible proofs of that greatness aside from the testimony of the distinguished friends write well during "his first sixty years," though ing of Alcott in '57; "He is good as a lens, a as a talker he was impressive and suggestive, and, mirror, a beautiful susceptibility, every imindeed, quotes more than one of Emerson's com- pression on which is to be accounted ments on this disability-as thus: "To me Emer- for, and, until accounted for, registered son used to say of Alcott), 'When he sits down as an addition to our catalogue of to write all his genius leaves him; he gives you natural facts. It needs one acquainted with the shells and throws away the kernel of his the lens by frequent use to make allowance for Concerning the verse written by defects-but 'tis the best in-trument I ever met with." Little or no claim is made in Alcott's thought.' with a confident admiration, in which we do not behalf to originality of thought. The philosephical critic, W. T. Harris, in the chapter share, even if we do not wholly agree with which he appends to this biography is obliged intimacy, that his friend could write nothing that to say over and over again that to understand was worth printing. We must look, then, for this or that proposition of the New-England generation, and upon that which succeeded it, tion of the Enneads of Piotinus, or the suppositito his short and comparatively unsuccessful period | tions life of Pythagoras by Jamblichus, or to some other work of the Neoplatonic fancy. It England and the West, to his appearances at resembles the process, familiarly observed in all of school-teaching, to his "Conversations" in Newmystics, of explaining the known by the navarious reform conventions, and to his discourses at the Concord School of Philosophy in his last known; but Mr. Harris is not so unreasonable after all. feeble years. The record of actual, definite serwould think of comparing Jamblichus or any so imposing one, and we take leave to doubt one of the men who wrote books in his name that his country would have suffered severely if with Albott in the matter of obscurity. Ordinary knowledge of Greek and a respectable Mr. Alcott had never become a Philosopher. Mr. Sanborn holds that Alcott's mission was to in- lexicon are sufficient aids to get at the meaning in the one case-leaving open the question spire thought and to share the spiritual tasks of the time; but he has failed to show us any con- whether the task is worth what it costs: but in the other no such mere mundane learning siderable body of disciples moved to notable intellectual and moral exertions by the philoso- is available. To the irreverent the query has pher's inspiration, as he has failed to show any slways been a ready one whether Alcott himself knew what he meant. There is something indispensable slare taken by Alcott in the beindispensable stare taken by Alcoli in the fore-mentioned spiritual tasks. The social in the query. What can be said for a man who experiment of Fruitlands—the attempt to was always reiterating the reality and perestablish a rural vegetarian community-was so manenes of the soul, and when presed with the contradictions of his own theory ends, as Mr. childish in conception and execution that it could excite nothing but pity and laughter; and it Harris says Alcott did, with the exclamation: "I never can believe that I originated in that furnished "inspiration" to nobody but the groups matter there!" Only a man like Professor of unbalanced fanatics who filled the woods at that period. As an inspiring force Mr. Sanborn Tyndall could expose the abyes of ign rance respecting the infinite properties of matter that takes his subject too seriously. Alcott's "Conversations" were, in truth, best appreciated by his is covered by this commonplace phrase. Al-off brother Transcendentalists, who did not particu- was apparently incapable of understanding the larly need communicated inspiration, though they fact at the bottom of all science that the elements out of which the visible would is composed are immeasurably more subtle and reaccepted it cheerfully. While it is impossible to concede that Mr.

Alcott was a very great man, whose career was fined and elusive than the ghosts of fiction or one of special importance and beneficence, it the Psyche of the Greek philosophers. His should be acknowledged that he had rare notions were, in fact, those of men who lived talents and a pure and elevated character. Em- sixteen hundred or seventeen hundred years are erson once said of him: "I think he has more not in the age of a vital thought, but in the sail faith in the ideal than any man I have known," times when efforts were making to put new and elsewhere he called him "a tedious arch- life into a lead mythology. angel." Tedious he often was in divers ways. It is not easy to put the notions of Al He had not the saving grace of knowing when cott nor those of his distant predecessors into he was at his best, and his talk was sometimes the language of common-tuse, but they agree i, a thing of pompous words and cloudy ideas,
"All stir and no go," as Emerson has said of
his friend's literary style. His testimony as to Alcott's talk at its best was as emphatic. "As and was now forced to work its way back through Alcott's tark at its best was as compared. The pure intellect. I have never seen his equal," he ever-changing forms to the original unity. Take wrote in 1866. For want of the balance wheel some other word beside spirit and the system of common-sense most of this high gift was does not appear so greatly different from that The good man walked the earth with which supposes the world to swing between the his head in the clouds, his soul bent on straight- contrasted states of homogeneity and hetera way bringing about a millennium of wisdom, good- geneity. Nor was this principle unknown to those ness and beauty, and heartily believing in the who preceded the Neoplatonists any more than possibility of such a Golden Age. Mingled with to those who followed them. As there has never all his lofty aspirations were ideas so crude, been any thorough change of thought on this subschemes so fantastical, that it is no wonder a ject, it is plain that to the ancients, just as to practical people laughed at the teachings of a the moderns, the definition of absolute being was prophet capable of so much weakness and folly. merely approximate, consisting in the reme The account which he himself gave in his later years of his Fruitlands experiment is significant limited human mind. Its transformation into of the want of those "reconciling gifts" which a person more or less humanized, which seems were needed to recommend his propaganda of nious thing to most moderns, seemed on the

Only a vegetable diet was allowed; for the Only a vegetable diet was allowed; for the rights of arimals to life, liberty, and the pursuit rights of arimals to life, liberty, and the pursuit rights of arimals to life, liberty, and the pursuit rights of arimals to life, liberty, and the pursuit right constitution. This not only cut them off their constitution. Just as far as this doctrine was belonged to the calf—the chicken had a right to its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant. Even the its existence as well as the infant of the identity of being and not being and cankerworms that infested the apple were not to be molested. They had as much right to the apples as man had. Unfortunately, farm operations were not started until well into June, and the only crop raised that was of value as dependence was barley; but the philosophers did not flinch at the thought of an exclusive barley diet. Now and then they gave a thought as to what they should do for shoes when those they now had were gone; for depriving the cow of her skin was a crime not to be tolerated. The barley crop was injured in harvesting, and before long actual want was staring them in the face. This burden fell heaviest upon Mrs. Alcott, for, as housewife, it was her duty to prepare three meals a day. They remained at Fruitlands till midwinter in dire poverty, all the guests having taken their departure as provisions vanished. Friends came to the rescue, and, concluded Mr. Alcott, with a tone of pathos in his voice: "We put our four little women on an ox sied and made our way to Concord. So faded one of the dreaps of my youth."

The burden always "fell heaviest on Mrs. Alcott;" until their daughter Louise came to the rescue with her literary earnings, a cruel poverty. toil beyond her strength and the necessary acceptance of Lenefits from friends were the lot of the philosopher's faithful wife. It is hardly just to condemn as vulgar money-grubbers those who ridiculed Alcott's absurdities and rejected his teachings. It is but human to demand from a "spiritual hero" who assumes to lead mankind reasonable consistency and deeds as spiritually heroic as his words; and Mr. Alcott's often ludierous whims of reform, his prodigious egotism and the undigested platitudes which came from his pen did much to blind the eyes of men to his real value. That serene and nobly balanced intellect which moved beside him at Concord no man mistook for long-Emerson had "hitched his wagon to a star," but he did not desert the wagon and attempt to live in the stars altogether. The lore of the heavens came to help the same and competent management of the sublunary vehicle. One could not imagine him refusing to eat and shutting himself up to die secause a visionary community scheme had failed. It was only the entreaties of his wife that prerented Alcott from thus deserting her and their four young children when the end of Fruitlands came. How much of this despair rose from wounded vanity and how much from the vanishing of an ideal, no one could have told so well as Emerson. He, as they grew old together, measured Alcott's faults as accurately as his virtues. It was to Emerson that the "tedious archangel" once said, "You write on the genius of Plato, of Pythagoras, of Jesus; why do you not write of me?"

From The London Daily News.

An art which is carried to a high degree of excellence in the East, but which seems in some danger of decaying, is that of ornamental bookbinding. Some notion of the skill of Orlental craftsmen in this branch of design may be gathered from specimens given in the latest issue of "The Journal of Indian Art and industry." The best of these specimens, says Colonel Holbien Hendley, come from Ulwar, and are doubtless of Persian origin. Few approach in goodness of design and in carefulness of execution the work of Karl Ahmed and his sons, who were for some years in the employ of the Chief of Ulwar. The grandsons have now succeeded to the sons, however, and in their hands the art is likely to become a mere trade. In India, a man of real genius develops an art from some hints be received from strangers, or, it may be, discovers it himself, but from jealousy or from fear of destroying his monopoly, teaches only the members of his own family, who may or may not share his skill, and thus in the course of a generation or two nothing remains but a shadow or parody of perhaps an exquisite production.

In the Ulwar bookbindings the ornament is somewhat after the old Groller style, in which the colors are painted on the boards, and are not inlaid, in most of the designs the pattern is produced by the use of brass blocks. The colors are then painted on with the brush. Sometimes the Ulwar artist colors the whole of the ground, and at others only part of it, so as to produce very different effects by the use of the same blocks. The effect is remarkably fine, and is comparable to the design work on some of the most beautiful productions of the more famous china manufactories. The bindings are expensive, as they are all hand-made, and a great deal of gold is used. A bargain may be made, however, with the present artists, who ask for as much as they can get. As their work is currious and valuable, they have, as a rule, very little difficulty in disposing of it. Numerous specimens have been made for the Qu In one admirable phase of Alcott's work-that of the teaching of children-those who scouted a half-century ago have come to believe with him. He held that children should be fed to the production and original exercise of thought; that even from infancy they "could be trained to open their minds for divine influences as readily as for those which are ordinarily presented to them." Few will quarrel with these opinions now; and it should be said that with some exceptions Alcott was wise in his teaching methods. But in these days they can hardly be applied to the public school system.

The story told in these volumes leaves the reader wondering over the intellectual equipment which the untrained youth derived from omnivorous reading. He was the son of an English stock which sent forth men upright, selfrespecting and thoughtful-in recalling this one must smile at the easy liberality abhorrent to the genealogist) with which Mr. Sanborn declares, with no atom of proof, that Alcott's ancestors "doubtless were of the same family as the famous John Alcocke, Bishop of Ely." Nurtured in poverty, the boy had but a short period of the simplest schooling; and that

cates the possession of what were, indeed, uncommon abilities. Mr. Sanborn laments that A HISTORY OF THE PAST AND A FICTION Alcott could not have faced the world with a small and certain income, believing that white OF THE PRESENT.

this would have given him leisure and opportunity for meditation and prophesying, it would THE SETTLEMENT OF THE JEWS IN NORTH AMERICA. By Charles P. Daly, Lt., D. Edited with Notes and Appendices by Max J. Kohler, A. M., Pp. xviil., 171. Philip Cowen. also have freed him from a great part of the odium poured upon him by a "mercenary" and "vulgar" civilization. If we must lament, we

JOSEPH ZALMONAH. A novel by Edward King Pp. 35. Lee & Shepard. Many years ago Judge Charles P. Daly prepared and delivered an address in which he presented the vast mass of learning which he took in and reresults of his investigations concerning the early history of the Jews in the Colonies of North The biographer quotes Emerson as say-America. That address is the nucleus of the present volume. Subsequent researches have confirmed Judge Daly's statements and have added to the material. Mr. Kohler in his brief latroduction merely indicates the lines upon which those interested in the work have pushed their inquiries, In spite of the fact that Jews dared not let their religion be known in the Spain and Portugal of Columbus's time, it is now ascertained that there were Jews in his expedition and that Jewish finan-Cuba was a Jew. But they were obliged to keep | tiger? their religion a secret and their anxious desire for the merest shadow of religious toleration was fatal to many of those who settled in Brazil. For, knowing the freedom accorded to persons of every faith in Holland, they aided the Dutch in the conquest of Brazil, and when this was accomplished. began the practice of the religion openly. Of course the return of the Portugese to power was a signal for the persecution of these who had thus made themselves a mark for Catholic hatred.

But the toleration of the Dutch did not go so far as to permit the open oractice of non-Christian religions. Even in the free air of the North American colonies, the Jew found himself proscribed. There were only two spots where he had something like the liberty account to other men Amsterdam and Rhode Island. It was not Governor Stuyvesant's fault that Jews had a footbold on Manhattan island. He would have forbidden them the privileges of trade and residence. But the Dutch West India Company drew its capital largely from Jewish coffers, and its directors indisted that the same liberties must be granted in But in the sixteenth century the Jews had numer ous companions in the misery of enforced neclusion. "This work," says Mr. Kohler in his intro-duction, "will show that neither under the Dutch nor in Rhode Island were the rights of Jewish settlers as extensive as those of the adherents of the prevailing religious. Nor does it appear that the the same policy of religious televation as to her Dutch colonies prior to arranging for the colony One of the most curbous facts about the freedom at last granted to the Jews to have a public place of worship on Manhattan Island was that the per-

mission came from the last Catholic King of Fing and his plan was to treat all religious alike. He was only one among these who say that they could Seven the not understand this, and he practically excluded these last were much Smaller than any I had ever these lastiners much Smaller than any I and army. They came on foct, singly singly and on the cars where the railroad had penetrated seems by requiring a heller in the doctrine of the fermity. Under the injunction that differences of silglen were not to be considered, the previous silglen were not to be considered. The previous silglen were not to be considered, the previous silglen were not to be considered, the previous silglen were not to be considered. I saw myself this norming, a and it soon penetrated everywhere, and on the cars where the cars where the railroad had penetrated. I saw myself this norming, a and it soon penetrated everywhere, and on the cars where the cars where the railroad had on the cars where the r ruled and the first synagorus in North America, respect tille one, with a long tail, which it carried was built in Beaver-st., between Brondway and like a Grey Hound; in short, I should have taken Broad-st.

which had to be passed upon by the House itself. The conclusion was that as Jews could not vote for Members of Parliament they could not be allowed to vote for representatives in the celony. matter, the question being simply

one by one, of all the restrictions felt by the

contrary little better than blashemy to some

ancient thinkers. They tound rest in a formula,

and the vicissitudes of individual life came to

be looked on as an evil and a calamity. The

effort to reduce diversity and unity to identity was interrupted at every turn by a dualism that

seemed almost instinctive, satisfied only by some

form of speech that recognized the original be-

ing, the something or nothing of Plato's half-

We have called this biography a rambling one

It is unskilfully put together, and omits definite

detail which is needed for a full comprehension

of Mr. Alcott's career. But it is full of valu

able material for the student of transcendentalism

in New-England, and is specially interesting in

A FRIEND OF DICKENS.

Mr. "Frank" Bland, who died a few days ago, wa

Mr. "Frank" Bland, who died a few days ago, was for many years one of the most intimate friends and most constant associates of Charles Diekens of whom he was the confidential medical attendant and he acted in the same capacity for Wilkle Collins for more than thirty years. He was a very clever man in his profession. Mr. Bland's close connection with Dickens made him a well-known figure in many literary and theatrical circles, and he was always very popular in society. He has considerable influence over Dickens, and in May 1869, he came prominently before the public in connection with the sudden stoppage of his patient's public readings, which were then in the height of their popularity. Dickens had then been for sometime in failing health, and he reported such alarm ing symptoms in his letters that Bland rushed down to Preston, and found him on the very brink of a paralytic stroke.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

A curious testimony to the power of the pressis attributed to the Pope by one of the Roman correspondents. His Holiness is disappointed. It seems, that more of his 'Railted' candidates wernot elected in France last Surday, and he attribute their failure. It is said, to want of support in the press. The press must have indeed have superseded the publit. If the Head of the Church caidind no means of making binnel felt except by the aid of the secular arm in the shape of newspapers.

INDIAN BOOKBINDING-

From The Westminster Gazette.

From The London Dally News.

its quotations from MSS, left by Mr. Linerson.

humprous analysis.

From London Truth.

exposition is unassailable," he turns from the Eog-lish law to the history of legislation in the colony 1664, he argues that the General Assembly might ing part of it under the fifte of "An Examination properly have reached a different decision in 1787," of Weismannism." of speculation. Just as far as this doctrine was

ish literary men in New-York. The most remark- | get by honest work. He repeated his experiment in able of these was Mordecal M. Neah, whose effort to Great Britain and in America, and in the process Scandinavians predominating, with always, it found a Hebrew colony on an Island in the Niegara required a great deal of important knowledge have seemed (but this may have been a mere fancy). River would have made him famous, if he had not ling a direct bearing on sociological questions. Those-been already a dramatic writer and journalist of who are interested in this valiant student's obserprominence. But all in all, the Jewish name does not shine so well in the career of these adventurers in numbers of "The Century." His adventures among

Mr. Kohler to the rather feverish writing of Ed-ward King's new novel. "Joseph Zaimonah," we A charming edition of Catolica, in the original have a glimpse of the Jew in a character which he Latin, is coming from the Macmilian presses. It is has rarely impersonated in this country. It is well to have divers full-page illustrations, and the said of the Jew that he takes on the traits of the edition will be limited to one hundred copies. country to which he belonus. Everywhere and always a Jew, it still makes a vast difference in him whether he is English, German, Spanish, Russian | to bring out a new story with a young American or Oriental. The American Jew has already taken of the period for hero. The scenes are laid pertly on peculiarities that distinguish him from his co-religionists in other countries. It is only saying of vester," who gives his name to the book, is the religionists in other countries. It is only saying of him what is true of all Americans, that he is less centre of many dramatic situations. World. To the conservative adherent of Judaism | The first volume of an edition of the collected the Law of Moses. To them motionless conserva- of one volume a month. This first volume, en-From such an object lesson as that given in Mr. King's book, even if it be only partially true, there and Hebrew Tradition," "Science and Christian s much to learn on this very point. His characters, "Tradition," and "Hume Russian Jews. They comprehend that there is in The fifth volume of Charles S. Sargent's magnifithis country no restriction on their worship, and cent "Silva of North America," is announced for that they are no longer obliged to whisper their immediate publication. It deals with the Hamame opinions. But the ideals that they formed in Russia | Idaceae-Sapotaceae, and has fifty of Mr. raxon's of a promised land, of a sort of elysium, are not beautiful drawings. realized here. They do not understand the individof liberty are suitable to a cohesive organization in of his Rougon-Macquart series of novels, which he which the individual might still be a slave to the began in '68 when he was twenty-eight years old. still the slave of those who choose to tyrannize to me by an agreement which I made with Lacroix, to be free. The testimony of Mr. King's realistic the 500 francs a month were to be defiction is that the tyrants under whom the wretched ducted from the proceeds of the sale of the novel. people suffer are men of their own race. One of a share of the profits to be handed to me. I spent the most graphic pictures in his book is that of several months in reading up the question of heredisynagogue on a holy day. In the awful misery of atavistic influence. I read up the subject at servility with it cannot be relieved offhand even one, and because nobedy could say that I

servility with it cannot be relieved offhand even in the New World.

The hero of the novel is a good character, but he is far from strong. He is too easily tempted. It is rather by what he suffers than by what he does that he attains his purpose. Such men make better leaders in the Orient than they do in the West. Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that Mr. King has delineated in Joseph Zalmonah a real and not an imaginary type; such men are wiser for the future than for the present. But one cannot help being suspicious of a realism which depends on the well-worn device of making a modern Jewish agitator resemble Jesus. The story in which Zalmonah figures is full of incident. By sudden and sometimes abrupt changes of scene, the reader glances into the crowled tenements of the East Side of New-York, into the workshops of the "sweaters," into the Tombs prison, into the synaxogues, and at last-a grateful change—is shown the pleasant colony life of the Russian Jews in Connecticut. The story rises in hopefulness as it proceeds, and the lesson which it inculcates that peaceful agitation is more effectual than force in social reform is a worthy one.

mania, lived in a house which had many interest-ing literary associations. Here Guy de Maupassant was placed in charge of its owner; and here for a time, lived Gerard De Nerval, who, when Janin as complaining, "The fellow has given four columns | Scribners will bring it out.

he should have made so much of himself indi- JEWS IN THE NEW WORLD. to Lassailly and hardly any space to me, and I'm sister of Dr. Blanche. Years ago Marie ette was entertained here by the Princess de Lam-

LITERARY NOTES.

A volume of personal recollections of Whittier is coming from the press of T. Y. Crowell & Co. Its author is Mrs. M. B. Claffin, who was for many

Mr. Aldis Wright's Cambridge Shakespeare is to be brought out in an edition de luxe within a few weeks. Each of its forty royal octavo volumes will contain a complete play. They will be printed on handmade paper and bound in Irish linen; and the impression will be strictly limited to five hundred copies.

A new book by Mr. Frank Stockton will soon be published by the Scribners. It is a collection of short stories, and is to be called "The Watchmaker's Wife and Other Stories." Shall we find any one of them as clever as that which left undecided ciers aided the work. One of the first settlers in the famous question concerning a certain lady and

> The set of Fielding's works which the Macmillans are to be followed by an edition of Goldsmith in six volumes, edited by Austin Dobson, who is as-suredly well fitted for the task. Miss Burney's "Cecilia" will be one of the volumes of this series.

> Professor Jebb's lectures on Greek poetry, given not long ago at Johns Hopkins, are to be published soon by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. under the title of "The Growth and Influence of Classical Greek Poetry." The volume will include chapters on the ctive qualities of the threek race as expressed by Homer, Greek epic poetry, Greek lyric poetry, drama, and the permanent power of Greek poetry.

General Lew Wallace's "Prince of India" has alhered fifty thousand copies.

It is a strange thing that while three official copies been given to the public until now. The form in combined the journals of Captain Cook, Sir Joseph Canka, the botanist, and Dr. Solander, the naturallst, with comments of his own, and made the symbol of harvest. Even the reaper had been colonial possessions as she adopted at home, for we chief of the expedition responsible for all. The

of the first sight of the kangaroo by Europeans Sunday, 24th June, 1770 - Winds and Weather as Yesterday, P. M., the Carpenters finished the Starboard side, and at nine heeld the Ship the other way, and hauld her off about two feet for fear of found two planks cut about half thro'. Early in the Il size of a Grey Hound, and shaped in every As late as 1737 the rights of fews as electors which it jump'd like a Hare or Deer. Another of the length of the grass hindered my seeing its legs."

T. Hopper, the philanthropist, has written a novel in the middle of the century. The book contains Mr. Kohler offers, however, what he calls "a brief more or less exciting history, and in it appear for the Jews." While declaring that "Judge Daly's various well-known characters of the period. It is

itself; taking this legislation in connection with the capitulation of the Dutch to the English in of his "Darwin and After Darwin," but he is print-

the Reformed Jew is doubtless an alarming phe- works of Professor Huxley will be published in nomenon. He is not so, however, to those outside October, and the set will be completed at the rate "Science and Education," "Science "Larwiniana."

ual liberty universal in this country. Their notions | M. Zola has been confiding to a visitor the origin ommune. There is no denying that this notion is "I had long entertained," he said, "the desire to imitate Halzac in the execution of a gigantic series acceptable to the Russian moulik; less so now per-haps than in the past, but still something which of books like his Human Comedy; The only thing can only gradually be outgrown. The Russian Jew | that was wanting was an assured income on which retains the color of his ancient environment. He is to live while working. This income was guaranteed over him. He knows what it is to complain, what it | who offered me 500 francs a month for two is to agitate, but he has never learned what it is years. I was to supply him two novels a year, and who hopes to atone for the murder- ty or atavism, because I had determined that my ous cruelty of his daily life by confession in the books should be the exposition of the theory of the "sweater's" den, in the accusations sometimes | public libraries, Doctor Lucas's works on "The Law of Natural Heredity' was particularly useful to me gotten that a race which brings its tyrants and its. The subject tempted me because it was a scientific the wrong in my conclusions, because nobedy knows

Concerning the selection of the name of Rougon-Macquart, Zola says: "I thought it out very carefully, for I am a great believer in names, and judge writers by the sonority and propriety of the names which they bestow on the characters in their books A good writer chooses good names. I often spend a whole day selecting a name for one of my charac ters, going over the Paris City Directory for the purpose. I believe that a kind of sympathy exists between people and their names, and that certain characters must be called so, and not otherwise Rougon is a common enough name in the south, and has a pompous ring about it. Macquart I chose because it is in contrast with Rougon, and has comething base and popular about it."

The late Dr. Blanche, the French specialist in volume of the new edition of his "American Com monwealth," and the volume will soon be brought

General A. W. Greely's book on "Explorers and wrote a sketch of the establishment, is described Travellers" is nearly ready for publication. The

WHEAT.

MODERN FARMING IN THE WEST.

REMINISCENCES OF THE OLD MINNESOTA WHEAT FIELDS-THE HARVESTERS OF FORMER DAYS.

Lake City, Minn., Sept. 2.-There seems to be in wheat-raising a fascination for men who have been once engaged in it, something like that in gold-digging for the old placer miner, else why should the farmers of Minnesota, let us say, go on growing it in quantities year after year when it has, for various reasons, ceased to be a paying crop? Of course some of them do not, and other grains are creeping in, notably barley; but the fact remains that the average Minnesota farmer every year nows acres of wheat from which he can have but little hope for more than very small returns. The plump, rich, smooth, gold-red grain seems to captivate him, and he goes on sowing his rolling acres to it and seeking to revive the State's Heroic Age of wheat.

For wheat-growing in Minnesota has a Past, though the State be young. It once led all the rest as a wheat-producing State, though I fancy this is not the case now; the quantity has fallen off in Minnesota and increased in some other States. The Golden Age of wheat in Minnessta was fifteen or twenty or twenty-five years ago. Then the whole are bringing out comprise twelve volumes. These prairie was a great wheat field, and then the yield never varied. In the spring the State lay gray and black-cold and lifeless. In June it had become a soft, fragile green, which in July darkened a little and then turned to gold as the month wore away and the State began to ripen and approach the time of harvest, which came early in August. Then the State was thrushed and the grain sold at a good price, and the people found themselves with money in plenty; and they ploughed their State and awaited the spring to sow it again to the grain which reemed to grow as luxuriantly as if indigenous to the soil. It was wheat everywhere; everybody irse of its development; Pindar, the Attic | raised wheat or dealt in wheat, or lived off of wheat in some way; to farm was to grow wheat; crops were wheat; grain was wheat; to harvest was ingather wheat; the market was the wheat market. ready gone into a second edition. That is saying a Minnesota seemed not a cultivated State, but a natgood deal for its success, for the first edition num- ural wheat pampas, a vast prairie of wheat rather than one of the humbler sister grasses.

OLD HARVINT TIMES.

And in that Golden Prime of the good King of Captain Cook's Journal have been accessible for Wheat vast horder of men came up every summer a hundred and twenty years, no transcript of it has out of Somewhere to help harvest it. It was in the infancy of agricultural labor-saving machinery, bewhich we have heretofore known it was that in fore a farm could be carried on by one man and a which it was arranged by Dr. Hawkesworth, who squad of complicated machinery. The cradie, which a man swung like a scythe, had gone long before to join the sickie, that early implement and present vastly improved. The box who formerly sat on a volume just published in England is a literal tran- tow seat and raked off the gavels of grain had to enjoy Amsterdam's generous hespitality and toleration were refused permission to settle in the self-raking, but it still took five men to bind the grain into sheaves, with one or two to stand them up into shocks and another to drive the machine. making a total of seven or cirbt to every reaper; and each farmer had at least one reaper, and from In the A. M. they went to work repairing that to three or four, or a dozen, or even more if the Sheathing under the Starboard bow, where we the farm were large enough. And Somewhere was sufficiently gracious to open and give up enough morning I sent a party of Men into the Country men; though they come not now, nor does anybody under the direction of Lt. Gore to seek for refresh- know what has been their fate. Wages were three ments; they return'd about moon with a few Palm or four, sometimes five, dollars a day, with board; Cabbages and a Bunch or two of wild Plantains; and the men came and overran the State like an vesters came on the Mississippi River steamboats. Sometimes a hundred or more of them would disit for a wild dog but for its walking or running, in embark at a single landing, the more industrious were still in question. As New-York was subject to English law the status of dows in England was made the basis of a decision in a context for a seat in the General Assembly. Jown had voted for one of the cardinates and thus a point was raised which had to be terror. scattering at once into the surrounding country in

Many of these men were from the river-raftsmen, dealing with the anti-slavery troubles in New-York for it was when rafts floated with the current instead of being pushed ahead of stern-wheelers; stramboat men who had deserted their craft, or men who were more or less permanently connected By these gradual steps the Jew rose to religious and political equality with his fellow men. There are even greater difficulties in other colonies, but were even greater difficulties in other colonies, but would be considered by Crowell, it is in two largest of any had worked all winter in the Wisconsin pineries and the work it does is better than and the Northwest Territory. Others, and out of order, and the work it does is better than hand work. But the machine is not so interesting worked all winter in the Wisconsin pineries and as was the crowd of the colonies. world as it came, and finding America from the guised himself as a tramp and went forth to spend and fall on the farm and returning to the woods outset an improvement on the narrow civilization an uncomfortable fortnight among the tramps of in the winter. Indeed, the connection between the of the Old World. To his original paper, Judge Germany. One of the results of his study of these Daly, at the request of Mr. Kohier, has added a gentry was his discovery that many of them were continuation made up largely of blographies of Jew-making a better living as beggars than they could interact harvesters had had experience among the pines. There was a fair sprinkling of foreigners, more than a rightful proportion of representatives from forgotten ends and odd corners of the earth, such as the little outlying islands of Great Britain. A MOTLEY COMPANY.

The reader acquainted with man as he manifests industrious, well-behaved. Others, with their wages seemed to engender a taste for a more ardent fluid. Many of the rafismen affected bowle knives in their ing intoxication is seldom attended by happy re-The professional harvestmen were often provided when applied vigorously to a vulnerable part of the hated opponent, are almost as unfortunate in their effects as the bowie. The revolver, too, was not unknown in the hands of all classes, though it was not common. The Scandinavians were perhaps the most peaceably disposed class, and were seldom armed, depending in case of trouble in their neighborhood on their usual great physical strength and a peculiar ability to kick the astonished enemy on the top of his head without losing their balance But even the most violent was usually quiet enough on the farm, almost invariably requiring the stimulating influence of large draughts of whiskey to cause his personal happiness to become contingent on his ability to get into a fight of the first order. So it happened that during the harvest and autumn the towns were less quiet than usual, and the marshal" needed to be a man of considerable force of character, not to mention familiarity with, and a certain "spryness" in the use of, a substantial fire-

of-the-way corners of the earth will also understand that many men who seemed better fitted for other walks of life were found among the gatherers of the wheat. This seemed especially the case with the foreigners. A Pole is remembered, a quiet young man and a good worker, who astonished his employer by asking one Sunday afternoon for a book in Greek, since he feared that a too exclusive attention to wheat would cause him to become rusty in the language of Homer. The house, unfortunately, did not afford a volume in the original, but a forgotten book of essays on Grecian subjects, with found and, taking it reverently, he sented himself under a tree and renewed, in a manner, at least, his acquaintance with the "winged words" of Hellas. He had been a student in Warsaw, but had been obliged to exile himself for political reasons. Another, a Frenchman, while he may never have been like the idol, the admiration and envy of the bouleyards, which he would have had those about him believe, must nevertheless have seen much of the better life of Paris. Still another, an Englishman. was an Oxford man. Americans, also, who ought to have been able to do better, were numerous, though in their case it must be confessed the difficulty obviously was often the same which provoked the belligerence of the raftsmen. One graduate of Dartmouth, however, is recalled on whom a sea-son's hard work in clothes mostly supplied by his employer, his own garments being of such an effervescent nature that they seemed to be dangerously near the point of passing away into vapor, appeared to have a most favorable effect, as he has since steadily advanced and now occupies an important chair in a leading college. The work in these old harvest days was hard,

not reached the harvest worker-nor has it yet for that matter; the walking delegate walked not; the harvester was content if he got eight hours in which he did not have to work. The sun seemed to lend its aid to the diabolical proceedings of man, and rose earlier than it should by all rules of astronomy, and set later. The reaping machine went round and round the field, dropping off the unbound sheaves every few yards. The entire distance was divided into five equal divisions called stations, and a man bound up the sheaves of one station while the reaper was making one entire round, and was ready to go on with the next station as it passed him. Or he was supposed to do this, and if he did not he was dismissed in ignominy. band for tying up the sheaf out of the grain itself, making an ingenious though simple knot with a peculiar movement of the hands, drawing it tightly around the bundle and fastening it with a sort of half twist, half knot. To thus go on endlessly round a field, stooping over every few yards and lifting and tying the heavy bundles of wheat for twelve or fourteen hours, with the hot sun beating lown from a cloudless sky, was work which well eserved good pay. The man who trudged about etting the sheaves up into shocks of a dozen or wenty each had a task almost as hard, while the luckless boy who gathered the bundles into groups for this man could often be induced to confide privately to a friend that he should follow some other ecupation than wheat-growing-a resolution he usukent. Even the man who drove the reager and urged on the horses with language forcible if not elegant had no position to tempt the sybarite. There were no pneumatic tires on the reaper, nor too easy springs under the seat, and the temptation

some of the hardest ever devised by man, who

seems to have spent the best part of his existence

on the planet in inventing hard work for himself. The hours were long; the eight-hour movement had

to allow his fingers to be cut off in some of the machinery often seemed to prove irresistible. MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.

In no department of wheat-growing has so much progress been made in the methods as in the harvest-indeed, there is not much change in the other parts of the work. Now, as then, the grain is sown with a machine called a seeder, which is driven back and forth across the field, and scatters the seed evenly over a strip some eight or ten feet wide, digging up the soil behind it with a set of provable teeth. After this the land is gone over with a harrow once or twice. Sometimes the grain is planted with a "drill," which leaves it in small rows close together; but the result is the same This is in April, seldom before—cometimes in the carly part of May. In a few days the sprouts peep above the surface; in a few weeks the whole land is a velvety green. In June or July the heads appear, and in the latter month it is tall enough to billow itself in the wind, which is always blowing; and it rolls away to the horizon a sea of green, which is soon yellow, and then almost white. Usuady the harvest is well under way in July, though not always. It is seldom finished before some time in August.

But the barvest new is another thing. No army of men come from anywhere. The self-binder is everywhere; but there was no break in its evolution. The reaper came, perhaps, in the '30s, and it did well enough for forty years. But in the '70s it was found wanting, and it went down before a machine called the harvester. This was essentially a reaper on which two men rode to do the binding up of the sheaves, the time they saved in not having to walk from gavel to gavel enabling the two to do the work of the former five. The grain was brought up to them on an endless apron, and there was a canopy over them for shade. Altogether it was a considerable advance, and cut down the number of men needed, but it did not last long; the autoatic machine was in sight; in a few years the elf-binder came in and the men went out alto-

The first binders tied up the sheaf with wire, but this was not very satisfactory, and the kind which lies it with manila twine was soon brought out, and is still used. The twine is a little larger than a large round shoestring, and comes in balls as big as one's head. The mechanism of the selfwork, each with his satchel slung over his back on binder, though simple, is as ingenious as it well can be. Place the two ends of a string side by side for two or three inches; consider the two as one, tie them in one common, plain, schoolboy knot, and you have the knot made by the self-binder. work, for the supply seldom fully equalled the It is simple, but there is no firmer knot, as you will discover if you will pull on your experimental effort. In the binder, as in the old harvester, the grain is brought up on an endless apron. When enough has accumulated for a sheaf, a curved iron arm comes over, bringing one end of the twine. This arm presses the grain down and draws the cord in some way with the great river. Others were professional harvesters, in the summer at least, and foretinger, seizes both ends of the twine, turns "followed the harvest." beginning in Texas and around with an impulsive motion, and in so doing around with an impulsive motion, and in so doing coming North, jumping from State to State as the knot, lets go suddenly, a knife cuts the whitening fields beckened them on, till they ended twine, the sheaf is swept off, and the binder calmiy their labors in upper Minnesots, or later, in Man-itoba and the Northwest Territory. Others, and out of order, and the work it does is better than

PROM PIETO TO GRANARY.

After the wheat is safely in shock it is next stacked, built up into great piles, usually four of them in a place, and so made that they will shed rain and keep the heads of the wheat dry. Then, either sooner or later in the fall, it is thrushed. ing operations now and in the old days, except that steam has been substituted for horse power. For a ong time after the steam engine superseded the went round and round all day, each pair dragging a long sweep behind it; for a dozen years these engines were moved with teams of horses. But they were heavy, and it was slow work. So the himself in a given locality in large numbers, called engines were made to propel themselves from place thither by high wages, may well believe that some of these wandering harvesters-respers of the hourand down, often dragging a heavy wagon or two, and sometimes the separator, or thrashing-machine in their pockets, were prone to consume whiskey proper, a great, red, car-like structure, filled with inordinately and to fight one another with almost a machinery. These engines all burn straw, the straw religious enthusiasm. Ferhaps a larger percentage out of which they have thrashed the wheat; even of the river men displayed these social peculiarities when travelling along the road they drag a tender than any of the others. Life on the water behind filled with their favorite fuel. As the straw costs nothing, this is an important point in a prairie country, where both wood and coal are expensive The most important part of the separator, which stands perhaps seventy-five feet from the engine, and with which it is connected by a long belt, is a great skeleton cylinder of iron, covered with steel ly among a forest of stationary teeth. The grain is torn through the wilderness of teeth the kernels are loosened from their outside coverings-the pericarp-and pass on to the rest of the machinery scattered chaff. This machinery finally separates it with the aid of fans, sieves, shakers and other devices, and it runs out at the side in a clean, steady stream, while the straw and chaff are thrown out behind, making a mountainous, pale yellow pile. The wheat is put into sacks and is drawn away to the farmer's granary, while the straw is burned. Look any autumn night you choose across the Minnesota prairie, and you will see a dozen fires, the flames leaping up near at hand, or throwing a dull glow on the heavens. If the millions of tons of straw which have been burned in the State could have gone back to the soil whence they came perhaps the wheat crop of Minnesota to-day had been larger. Something like twenty men are required to oper-

ate a thrashing outfit, so that more men are now needed in thrashing than in harvest proper, though as it takes only a day or two to thrash the average farmer's grain, and so but a few machines are needed in a neighborhood, only a handful of mer are, after all, at work in comparison with the old times of the reaper.

After the grain is stacked or thrashed comes the ploughing of the land for another crop. There is not much difference between the latter day plough and that of a score of years ago. There are "sulky ploughs" and "gang ploughs," and other luxuriant creations on which the operator rides in state, but it has been noted by shrewd observers that the farmer who plods on foot seems to find the greatest prosperity.

Through the hazy Indian summer days of October the ploughing is kept up. It is a quiet time, with little wind to clear the smoky atmosphere, and with the sun hanging big and red and round, like the full moon, in the afternoon sky. The gossamer floats everywhere, and becomes tangled in the stubble, and streams idly from every lump of the black, new-turned soil. The prairie chickens whire way when disturbed, the blackbirds hold noisy

enventions against their departure south, and lazy wks float but scarcely move far up in the smoky tue sky. Along the roads the hazel-nuts are ripenag, and the golden-rod and wild sunflowers and ck-eyed Susans are combining with the

black-eyed Susans are combining with the purple flowers of autumn to make gay the peaceful days. If the Minnesota farmer ever day-dreams, he must do it now. At least he must dream at night, of the old days, and that they have come again, with twenty-five bushels of wheat to every acre, and a dollar for every bushel; and that he has a thousand acres rolling in yellow waves awaiting the sickle.